

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOVIET JOURNALIST DELEGATION VISIT JULY 21-AUG 10

REF: STATE 191604

1. SUMMARY. THE SOVIET JOURNALIST DELEGATION ENDED ITS THREE WEEK TOUR OF THE U.S. AUGUST 10. THIS VISIT, IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THAT OF THE SOVIET RADIO/TV DELEGATION (REFTTEL), WAS LARGELY IF NOT UNIFORMLY SUCCESSFUL. THE DELEGATION LEFT THE U.S. SATISFIED WITH THE VISIT AND PRESUMABLY SOMEWHAT THE WISER ON HOW AMERICAN SOCIETY WORKS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE VISIT'S ONLY PROBLEM STEMMED PRIMARILY FROM THE DELEGATION BEING SUCH A MIXED BAG. TWO OF ITS MEMBERS (MATVEYEV AND VISHNEVSKIY) KNOW THE U.S. VERY WELL AND ARE SOPHISTICATED TRAVELERS; AND THIS IS ALSO TRUE, TO A SOMEWHAT LESSER DEGREE, OF LOMKO. LITGAZ'S SYROKOMSKIY, HOWEVER, HAD NEVER BEEN TO THE U.S., AND JUDGING FROM HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEHAVIOR, HAD DONE LITTLE INTERNATIONAL TRAVELING OF ANY

KIND. AND ONLY SYROKOMSKIY SPOKE NO ENGLISH.

3. THE PROGRAM FOR THE GROUP, WHICH STRESSED PROFESSIONAL CONTACT WITH U.S. JOURNALISTS AND EDITORS TO THE EXCLUSION OF MOST OTHER ACTIVITIES, THUS GENERALLY SATISFIED THE THREE SOPHISTICATES, BUT LEFT SYROKOMSKIY SEEKING A BROADER VIEW OF THE U.S. ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ESCORT-INTERPRETER, SYROKOMSKIY BECAME INCREASINGLY DISCONTENT WITH THE PROGRAM AS THE VISIT PROGRESSED, AND CAME TO FEEL MORE AND MORE OF AN OUTSIDER AS HIS THREE COLLEAGUES CARRIED ON ALL CONTACTS IN ENGLISH. AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, THE TRIP'S ONLY MISHAP ALSO CHOSE SYROKOMSKIY AS ITS VICTIM; IN BOSTON HIS ROOM WAS BURGLARIZED AND A GOLD PLATED LIGHTER AND AN ALBUM OF STAMPS WERE STOLEN. (DURING FINAL MEETING IN CU WE GAVE HIM A LIGHTER WITH A DEPARTMENT SEAL AND A SMALL COLLECTION OF U.S. SPACE STAMPS; HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND DID NOT SEEM INCLINED TO MAKE A BIG THING OF THE THEFT.)

4. ALL FOUR NEVERTHELESS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE TRIP AND THANKED THE DEPARTMENT FOR ARRANGING IT. LOMKO SAID THAT HE WILL PROPOSE UPON HIS RETURN TO MOSCOW THAT THE SOVIETS HOST A SIMILAR DELEGATION FROM THE U.S. WE WELCOMED HIS SUGGESTION, NOTING BRIEFLY THE POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM RELUCTANCE OF MOST MAJOR NEWSPAPERS TO ACCEPT ANY GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF SUCH VISITS, AND USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE BUSINESS PRESS EXCHANGE EMBASSY HAS PROPOSED (SEPTTEL).

5. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DELEGATIO'S STAY (COMPLETE SCHEDULE HAS BEEN POUCHED) INCLUDED MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE COUNSELOR (REFTEL) AND WITH ACDA'S COUNSELOR JOHN NEWHOUSE; A MEETING IN BOSTON WITH THE GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS; SEVERAL DAYS IN SPRINGFIELD, MO, WITNESSING A PRIMARY ELECTION AND SITTING IN ON PRESS CONFERENCES BY THE LOCAL CONTENDERS; A MEETING IN CHICAGO WITH STUDS TERKEL; AND MANY MEETINGS WITH PROMINENT JOURNALISTS AND EDITORS.

6. THE DELEGATION ALSO MET WITH A GROUP OF U.S. PUBLISHERS  
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AT THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLISHERS IN NEW YORK, WHERE THEY COMPLAINED THAT SOVIET OFFICIAL FICTION IS IGNORED IN THE U.S., WHILE SOVIET DISSIDENT WRITINGS RECEIVE MAJOR EMPHASIS. ACCORDING TO OUR ESCORT-INTERPRETER THE AAP REPS CONTENDED THAT THEY SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH SOVIET PUBLISHING HOUSES

NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH WHAT COULD BE PUBLISHED PROFITABLY

IN THE U.S. THE AAP EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN, TACTFULLY, OVER THE QUALITY OF OFFICIAL WRITINGS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE DELEGATION MEMBERS, PRIMARILY LOMKO, UNDERTOOK TO COMMUNICATE TO MOSCOW THE AAP'S INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES TO SELECT 25-30 WORKS OF SOVIET FICTION FOR POSSIBLE PUBLICATION HERE.

7. THE TRIP'S MAJOR DISAPPOINTMENT WAS THE ABSENCE OF CARTER AND HIS ADVISORS FROM GEORGIA DURING THE DELEGATION'S STAY IN ATLANTA. LOMKO WAS APPARENTLY SLIGHTLY MIFFED OVER WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE PROTOCOL SLIGHTS, BUT APPARENTLY NOT SERIOUSLY BOTHERED.

8. THE DELEGATION TOLD US IT WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A SLIGHTLY LESS CROWDED SCHEDULE AND MORE CONTACT WITH "THE PEOPLE", INCLUDING TRADE UNION REPS. WHILE THEY HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSTRUCTURED CONTACT WITH THE MAN IN THE STREET, WHAT THEY APPARENTLY HAD IN MIND WERE STRUCTURED MEETINGS WITH "THE PEOPLE" ACROSS A LONG GREEN FELT COVERED TABLE--A "BESEDA" A LA RUSSE. WE WILL SEE WHAT WE CAN ARRANGE ALONG THESE LINES FOR FURTHER SUCH VISITS.

9. COMMENT: A GOOD VISIT, ALL IN ALL, WHICH ACHIEVED MOST OF EMBASSY'S OBJECTIVES. SYROKOMSKIY'S SLIGHT PIQUE, THE BURGLARY, AND THE GROUP'S EXPERIENCING A BOMB SCARE DURING THE AAP MEETING IN NEW YORK (APPARENTLY NOT CONNECTED TO THEIR PRESENCE) WILL PROBABLY NOT SERVE TO IMPROVE THE TONE OF LITGAZ'S REPORTING ON THE U.S., BUT THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR. FOR FUTURE JOURNALIST DELEGATIONS WE STRONGLY PREFER SOVIETS WITH NO PREVIOUS U.S. ASSIGNMENTS. THIS PROGRAM SHOULD NOT BE USED TO UPDATE FORMER SOVIET CORRESPONDENTS' INFORMATION ON THE US WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY INFLUENTIAL SOVIET JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE NEVER SET FOOT HERE. KISSINGER  
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